

CAPSULE SUMMARY - HOLMES/COX BARN (CT-1089)

The Holmes/Cox barn is located in a clearing approximately eight hundred feet north of Christianna Parran Road near its intersection with Plum Point Road. The nineteenth century, cross-axial plan barn measures forty by twenty-four feet in its main section and is situated on a east-west axis. Sixteen-foot wide sheds are located on the south, east and west sides, and a stripping room is located off the south shed. In addition to the forty by twenty-four foot cross-axial plan, hewn timbers and cut nails suggest a pre-Civil War date of construction. The sheds appear to be original due to consistency of materials and construction methods, and the roof lines of the east and west sheds jut out beyond the north facade forming what is locally referred to as a "bonnet barn".

pjm/12-1992

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. CT-1089

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Holmes/Cox Barn

2. Location

street & number Christianna Parran Rd.

☐ not for publicationcity, town Chesapeake Beach ☒ vicinity of Willows congressional district

state MD

county Calvert

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: storage

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Jack D.L. Holmes c/o Verda Turner

street & number Plum Point Road

telephone no.: 535-1510

city, town Prince Frederick

state and zip code MD

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Courthouse

liber

street & number Main Street (MD 765)

folio

city, town Prince Frederick

state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date

☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Survey No. CT-1089

Condition

☐ excellent

☒ good

☐ fair

☐ deteriorated

☐ ruins

☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered

☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved

date of move

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.
See Attachment.

8. Significance

Survey No. CT-1089

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

7. DESCRIPTION CT-1089

The Holmes/Cox barn is located on what used to be the property of Mr. Edward Cox. This property is located on the north side of Christianna Parran Rd., approximately one-half mile from its intersection with Plum Point Rd. Mr. Edward Cox purchased the property from his father. Mr. Edward Cox is no longer alive, but his daughter, Verda Turner, approximately eighty years old, informed us of the existence of this barn. It is located to the west of the farmhouse and on a clearing with a slight downward slope to the south, approximately eight hundred feet north of Christiana Parran Road. The axis is east-west. The nineteenth century cross-axial barn measures forty by twenty-four feet. It has sheds on three sides.

There is a set of double doors on both the north and south facades of the barn. The barn is divided into five eight foot bays. The frame is supported on a combination of field stones, wood blocks, and concrete blocks. The posts are hewn and joined via mortise and tenon joints with trunnels. Down braces, cross sill, nailing rails, and sill are all also hewn and pit sawn. Fully mature machine-cut nails are frequent. The barn has plain vertical siding with minimal ventilation. The roof rafters are on four foot centers and rest on a flat false plate. The plate and tie beams are hewn and pit sawn. There are windbraces on each diagonal, except the southeast. There are shingle nailers underneath the metal roof on the barn. The tier poles are peeled logs separated by forty-two inches vertical distance. The vertical hanging distance has been changed. Remaining evidence indicates that it was originally three feet. There are peeled log posts down the center separated by four feet. These posts have pegs inserted into holes in their sides on top of which the tier poles were laid.

The south shed measures sixteen feet wide. It has double doors centered along its wall. It is divided into the same eight-foot bay system as the barn. The south barn wall shows no nail holes or other evidence of siding. In addition, there are no nails or nail holes in the barn rafters below their junction with the south shed, so it appears that this shed is original. The timbers used in the shed are primarily circular sawn, although some of the tie beams are hewn. The earth-fast posts are peeled logs, the down braces and nailers are circular sawn. Vertical wall siding covers the exterior of the shed. The roof is of metal, but shingle nailers underlay the metal covering.

A twelve by sixteen foot stripping room has been added to the south shed.

7. DESCRIPTION (CONT.) CT-1089

The sixteen foot wide west shed is probably contemporary with the south shed and the barn. It has a double door centered along the west wall. There is no evidence of any wall or separation dividing the south shed from the west. In addition, there is no evidence for siding on the west shed. It is built of much the same materials as the south shed. The posts were earth-fast, but are now supported on concrete. There are some old hewn and pit sawn materials combined with modern circular sawn materials. There are no shingle nailers underneath the metal roof, but these may have been removed. It is possible that the entire roof was re-built.

The sixteen foot wide east shed has a double door in the second bay from the north on the east wall, and also in the southeast corner of its south wall. It is divided into eight foot bays. The east wall of the barn was once sided, as was the east wall of the south shed. Therefore, it seems likely, although not proven, that this shed is an addition to the structure. However, it may simply have been a stable. This would explain the existence of siding along the east walls, as stables are usually totally enclosed. The posts are supported on poured concrete piers. They are circular sawn, as are the down braces and nailers. Some of the tie beams and rafters are hewn and pit sawn. Plain vertical siding covers the exterior. There are shingle nailers underneath the standing seam metal roof.

8. SIGNIFICANCE CT-1089

This barn is a significant representative of pre Civil War era barns in Calvert County. Its hewn timbers and cut nails date it to this era. The forty by twenty-four foot measurements and cross-axial plan are those most frequently found in barns of this period.

This barn also yields information regarding agricultural history in Southern Maryland. In February 1990, a tobacco barn survey was initiated in order to study the tobacco barns of Calvert County. Until fairly recently, tobacco was the most important farm crop of the county. More acreage was devoted to its cultivation than for both of the next most extensive farm products (corn and wheat). The barns and stripping houses related to this "Tobacco Culture" are widely recognized as the most common element on the rural landscape. These structures are also the most threatened, as the market for tobacco declines. They seem to have, at present, only limited capabilities for re-use. Many barns and stripping houses now stand empty. The purpose of this survey has been to gather information and document a wide sample of these structures before they disappear from the landscape.

Historical Period theme(s): ca. 1830-1860; Tobacco; Agriculture
Geographical Organization: Western Shore Chesapeake Bay Calvert Cty MD

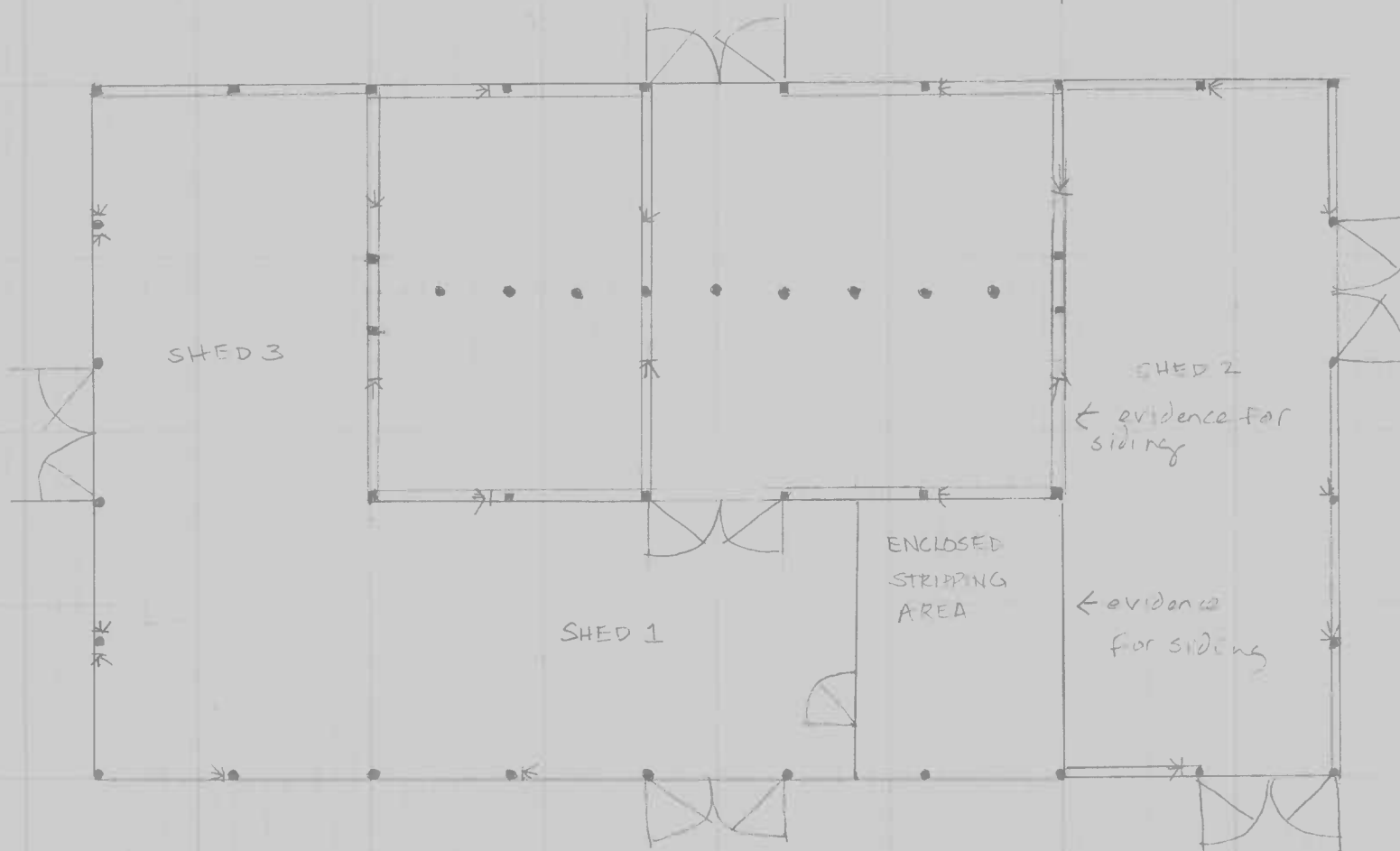
Chronological/Developmental Period: 1830-Present

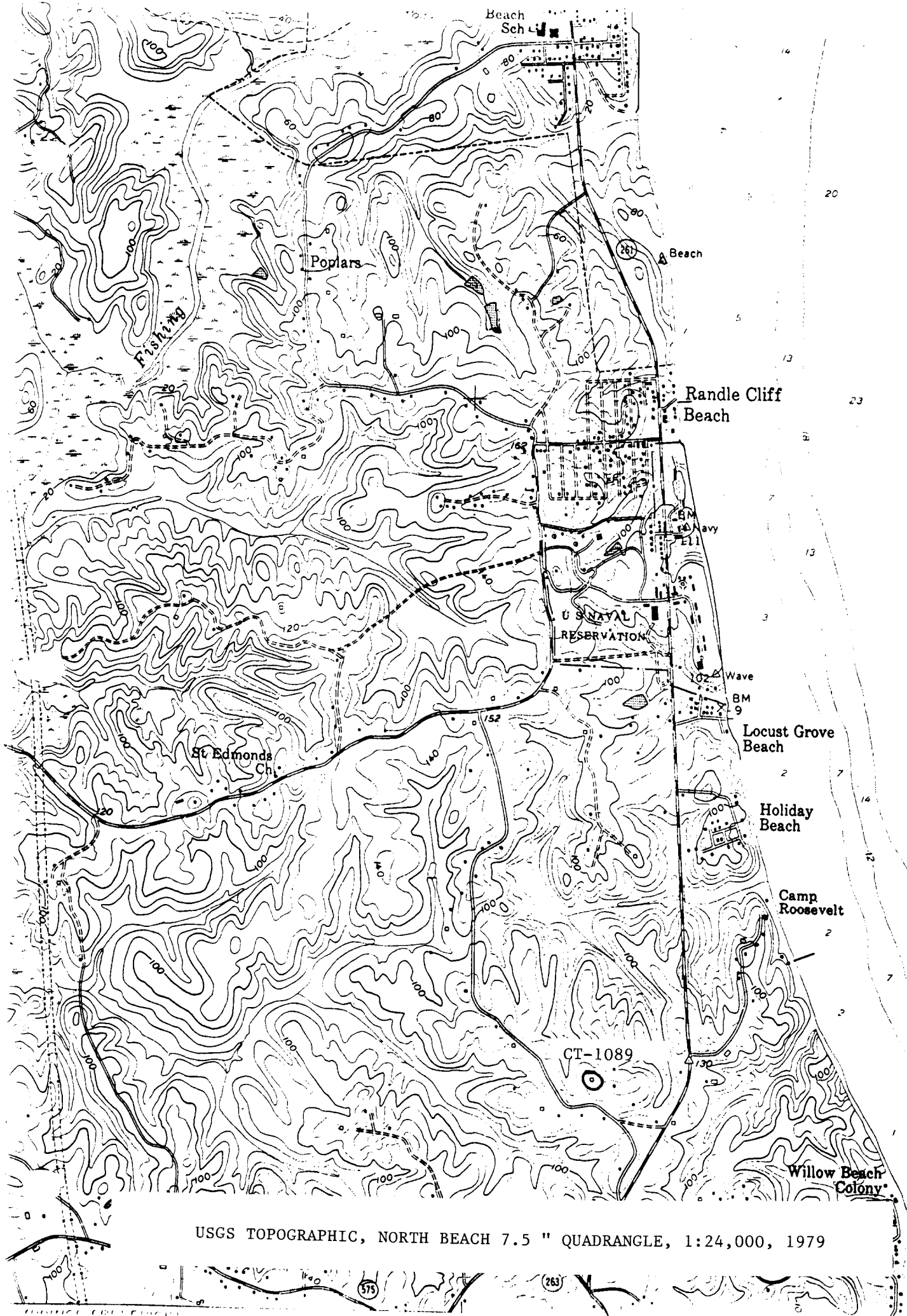
Resource Type(s): Tobacco Barn

After some soul-searching, it appears that this barn may have been built with the three sheds intact, the same as today. Hewn tie beams are consistent, the roofs are joined together via long peeled log rafters at the corners, pit sawn material and cut nails are in evidence throughout, although much siding and many nailers have been replaced. The roof lines of the east and west sheds jut out beyond the north side of the barn itself, thereby making it appear as if they are additions, but their integration with the south shed makes them appear original. The barn and the south and west sheds all seem to have been constructed and used for tobacco curing and related activities. The west shed, if original, was originally constructed to stable animals, but was later adapted to expand the curing capabilities of the barn. At this time, the siding was removed. According to Ms. Turner, the sheds have been extant on all sides for as long as she can remember. Other changes include the replacement of the shingle roof with metal, the removal of the double doors from the south side, and the addition of an enclosed stripping area. There has been a lot of re-building and replacement in the sheds, specifically the roof, over the west shed has been entirely replaced.

CT-1089

BARN #2062 HOLMES/COX BARN 4/12/90 1"=10'





USGS TOPOGRAPHIC, NORTH BEACH 7.5 " QUADRANGLE, 1:24,000, 1979



CT-1089

Holmes/Cox Burn

North Beach

Tara L. Williamsen

Southwest

April, 1990